

ADULT EDUCATION

Gone is the stack of Playboy,
Playboy substitutes, assorted nudes.

Philpot is determined to break
the habit: unlike the ex-smoker, he's

on his own. He looks back on a time
before he was addicted, and can't remember

it. He's been adult all his life
yet his pleasures, they tell him,

are those of a child. He has vowed
reform so often, his friends

dismiss him as a comic turn. But this time
he's determined to take the "You're

never too old to learn" joke seriously.
Surreptitiously, Philpot opens his first

textbook in forty years, defying
Maureen and regretting the two or three

kind women not eligible for the class.
"What do you say after you say Hello?"

the book asks, on the front page; but
there are no pictures, and the new

student will have to read through
200 pages to find out.